

Amendments to the Specification:

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

Replace paragraphs 11 and 38 with the following:

[0011] Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c depicts the sequence of assembling and packaging a disposable sensor according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0038] Certain types of sensing elements need to be stored in precisely controlled environments to maintain their sensitivity to the analyte at the desired level during storage. For example cytochrome-c encapsulated in a sol gel matrix has different sensitivity to NO depending on the level of ambient water vapor present. For this type of sensor it is desirable to store the sensor at a fixed water vapor concentration so that sensitivity to NO is well characterized when the sensor is used. The water vapor concentration may also play a role in maintaining the sensitivity of the sensor over time and could be important in determining the shelf-life of the sensor. It might also be necessary to protect the sensor from the ambient levels of the analyte. In order to maintain this specific environment, as could be done inside the housing using the sample conditioning units, a storage compound 112, such as a desiccant and/or a saturated salt solution may need to be placed in the storage pouch 110 for the sensor. See Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c. The storage compound (desiccants and/or salt solutions) may need to be stored with each individual sensor or with groups of sensors in their primary packaging 110, particularly if the pouch is re-sealable. The primary packaging can then be in the secondary packaging 120. See Figs. 5a, 5b, and 5c.

These amendments do not constitute new matter, because they merely clarify the labels or nomenclature for Fig. 5.